

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2003

Present: Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Corey (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Shirley Sanderson; Sue Huff, Librarian; Cathy Cramner; Clark Long; Sam Burwell; Officer Kim Williams, Police Department; Bernie Yott; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 3, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda as presented by moving Item No. 1) Consider Corunna Area Ambulance Service Agreement to Item 1A, and adding Item No. 1) Library Annual Report, Item No. 4) Rescind Ordinance No. 03-01 (Amending Michigan Vehicle Ordinance), and Item No. 5) Excuse Councilperson Jessen from the March 3, 2003 meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton advised cars are parking on King Street by the school and she has verified that this is happening. Councilperson Mehigh stated he has received a couple of phone calls on this and advised he happened to be in the area one rainy night when the cars were parked on the street and it is a hazardous condition.

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT: Sue Huff, Corunna Public Library Librarian, stated she was very excited about the new library building and thanked all of the volunteers for the time they spent at the new library. She reviewed and explained the state aid report. Cathy Cramner discussed the children's programs that were done during the past year. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan thanked Ms. Huff and Ms. Cramner for their reports.

CONSIDER CORUNNA AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to request that the Corunna Area Ambulance Board consider changes to Paragraph Two (2) and Paragraph Six (6) as per council recommendation of May 20, 2002, to accept adding Venice Township to the agreement paragraph of the Ambulance Service Agreement, to request the Corunna Area Ambulance Board to delete the "-+" text from the agreement price paragraph, to request that the Corunna Area Ambulance Board review the determination date for number of dwelling units to a date conducive to a date convenient to operational considerations of the governmental units, to request that the Corunna Area Ambulance Board review the determination date for the calculation of "equivalent" units and consider the use of quarterly employment filings to calculate number of employees and clarify the agreement to count all employees regardless of employment status, to request that the Corunna Area Ambulance Board consider delegating employee counts and billing responsibilities to the Ambulance Manager, and to request that the Corunna Area Ambulance Board provide the number of dwelling and equivalent units for all governmental entities for the past fiscal year to the Corunna Council. Councilperson Mehigh advised he and Councilperson Sanderson would bring these issues to the next ambulance board meeting on Wednesday.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ACCEPTING WATER SYSTEM STUDY: Wagner moved, Mehigh seconded to reject the "final" Water System Study as incomplete and request the addition of recommendations made by the Corunna Council at the November 2002 meeting with Tom Newhoff. Councilperson Mehigh advised council requested an update about the City of Corunna getting the same considerations on the water feasibility study as the other governments, and it is his understanding that the city manager sent something out to all of the township board members. Councilperson Mehigh further advised when the final draft was received, none of the changes were incorporated plus no contact was made to the city manager to discuss the changes. Mr. Sawyer advised he has not received any contact by any township official in this matter. He further advised it appears from the letter the city received from Prein and Newhoff that at the January 17 meeting held at Caledonia Charter Township, which the city was not invited to and was not properly posted, that a decision was made to finalize the water system study. Mr. Sawyer also advised the January 17 meeting was well after the November meeting in which the city requested additions to be added to the water study.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Jessen, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PHASE II OF WATER STUDY: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to reject the proposal to proceed to Phase II of the Water System Study. Councilperson Mehigh stated he could not see how the council could accept Phase II of the water study as is since the city was not invited to the meeting and did not have a complete package. Councilperson Sanderson asked Mr. Sawyer if it would come down to Mr. Sawyer and the townships having a head to head meeting to straighten out this problem. Mr. Sawyer advised he and council have made requests to the townships, but he has had no response. He further advised both townships have agreed to proceed with this study so they are on their own. Councilperson Johnson asked if the city has paid the \$5,000 for the study. Mr. Sawyer advised the city has paid approximately \$3,100 of the \$5,000 study. He further advised since the city is being repeatedly ignored, it might be appropriate for the city to ask for a refund of the monies already spent. Councilperson Johnson stated it appears the city is blatantly being ignored. Councilperson Mehigh stated he was not opposed to pulling out entirely, but the city needs to be an equal partner. Information needs to be shared and the city needs to be invited to the meetings. He further stated it would be nice to have some ownership in the project, but whatever happens, it has to be what is best for the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated this council wants to work with all government units, but the council has to look out for the residents of Corunna.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 03-01 (AMENDING THE MICHIGAN VEHICLE

ORDINANCE): Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to rescind the adoption of Ordinance No. 03-01 (amending the Michigan Vehicle Ordinance), which was adopted at the February 3, 2003 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON ARNIE JESSEN FROM MARCH 3, 2003 MEETING: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to excuse Councilperson Jessen from the March 3, 2003 regular council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh stated he would address the issues

regarding the ambulance agreement with the ambulance board. He further stated he would also address the fire board issues with the fire board. Councilperson Mehigh thanked the volunteers for all of their help at the new library building.

Councilperson Sanderson discussed Larry Runyan's orange tree business in Florida. Councilperson Mehigh advised Mr. Runyan has one orange on his tree that he guards with his life. Councilperson Sanderson stated he hopes people will take care of their snow removal.

Councilperson Johnson advised the library board meeting went well and everyone is gung ho with the new library building. She further advised June 1 is the opening target date for the new library. She also advised Mr. Sawyer is taking a lot of hits with the ambulance and fire agreements and she backs him 100 percent.

Councilperson Sanderson asked if it would be possible to have a work bee to clean up North Shiawassee Street down by the ambulance base. Mr. Sawyer advised the original intent was to put together a project for river cleanup in conjunction with the bridge project, but the bridge has been postponed for another year. He further advised another river cleanup could be scheduled.

Councilperson Mehigh suggested removing the trees along the river this winter and using the frozen edge of the river to stand on. He further suggested putting something in the quarterly newsletter about getting volunteers to shovel the sidewalks of the elderly. Mr. Sawyer advised something could be put in the newsletter asking people to contact city hall if someone has a problem with clearing snow or if someone is willing to assist the elderly.

Mr. Sawyer stated there is a county library meeting scheduled for Monday, February 24, but there is a Committee of the Whole meeting the same night, and it would be hard for him to be at two places at the same time. Councilperson Mehigh suggested moving the Committee of the Whole meeting to Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Sawyer advised the fire agreement was something that could be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole work session. He has come up with some different thoughts on the renegotiation of the fire agreement. He further advised the fire agreement has expired and there will not be any negotiations on extending the agreement. He also advised he has some ideas, which will benefit both parties. Mr. Sawyer stated Caledonia Charter Township Supervisor Wazny has four issues in the current agreement that he would like changed, but he has not been provided with those changes. He further stated the planning commission membership and forest management commission membership would be other issues to review. He also stated he and Ms. Washburn would like some guidance on

how aggressive the city should be in looking for grant opportunities in relation to the city's park and recreation master plan. Mr. Sawyer advised before the city spends a lot of

time in going after grants, he would like to know if it was possible to get matching funds from the city.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Jessen seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:05 p.m.

LARRY RUNYAN, MAYOR PRO-TEM

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK